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Quarterly Report

April - June 2004

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*Drawings from the National Drawing Contest
"Colombia, a Country for Children" Celebrated on
June 29th, 2004*



Support Program for Ex-combatant Children, Colombia



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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the implementation of the Assistance to the Ex-Combatant Children Program, financed by the United States Agency for International Development, USAID, the assistance projects have been provided and benefited in sum of 1,690 children demobilized from the illegally armed groups (in Spanish *Grupo Armado Ilegales*, GAI). Since March 2001, an average of 21 children entered the Colombian Welfare Institute (ICBF) assistance centers every week (144 quarterly). A total of 197 minors belong to indigenous ethnic groups and Afro Colombians. Also, victims of the GAI, who returned to their families without entering the assistance centers provided by the ICBF, have been benefited by the projects designed for a successful reintegration to work force and their families. In sum, **a total of 1,887** ex-combatant children have been benefited from a dignified and secure life outside the traumatic experience of the war. During last quarter, 161 (10 percent increase over the historical average) entered the Transitory Assistance Centers of the ICBF. Indigenous authorities recovered another 9 children and placed them under the protection of their community and family.

One of the specific objectives of the program is to strengthen the ICBF model for specialized assistance. In this respect during this quarter, 2 new assistance centers were funded, added to the existing ones, which allows the ICBF to assist 667 ex-combatant children in total 23 centers, in 4 Transitory Assistance Homes (HAT), 16 Specialized Assistance Centers (CAE) 3 Youth Houses (CJ). Similarly, during this quarter the geographic coverage increased with the opening one CAE in Cartagena, increasing the number of centers to a total of 9 main cities all over the country, including, Bogotá, Medellín, Cali, Bucaramanga, Pereira, Tunja, Cota y Armenia. Other cities such as Manizales, Villavicencio and Neiva have been selected to open new HTs the processes are being advanced for next quarter.

Despite government institutions' low expectations for receiving demobilized children from the self-defense groups (*Autodefensa*), with whom the government initiated peace negotiation dialogues, the program continues to provide support and establish guidelines and plan to design training strategies to prepare officers and institutions in order to face a possible contingency of a massive demobilization of children to the ICBF. It is expected to conduct regional trainings under a national coverage approach during the next quarter.

The program expansion plan has implied capacity building for both ICBF regional offices and NGOs operating the centers. In order to guarantee and maintain adequate and quality attention to the children with focus to guarantee their fundamental infant rights, the program is providing training in the technical, legal and financial administration components. Regarding the survival component, all the children that enter the program are receiving basic nutritional childcare and food provision is assured. They have also been receiving health benefits through health care institutions and/or health campaigns conducted by PROFAMILIA.

The protection component for the children has guaranteed a secure and warm environment equipped for their development. Also arrangements have been made to put them in contact with their families. In the development component, 1,034 children have received the support to enter the formal education system and 971 for vocational training, which will allow them to contribute to the development of the country, and form them in a solidarity spirit, comprehension and justice. Finally in the participatory component, from the day the child enters in the program, work is focused on restoring their identity, not to be discriminated because of their experience being part of the illegal group, and restoring their basic rights to be exercised.

This day-by-day work has permitted 240 children to return to their families, and not always in the most desirable conditions. This has been a challenge for the Program to support the nuclear family in providing their children with protection and give them the necessary requirements. Other 269 children completed their process in the ICBF program and were remitted to the Ministry of Interior's Reintegration Program. Under an agreement between the two institutions, children have followed this process, with the responsibility of the Referral and Opportunity Center (in Spanish *Centro de Referencia y Oportunidad*, CRO), without going through the demobilized adult shelters. During this

year, CRO has provided the continuity to the previous process. CRO has opened in Bogotá, Cali and Medellín.

In the prevention component for child soldier recruitment into the armed conflict, 10.892 children and youths have participated in the workshops, applying a methodology based on risk, vulnerability and opportunities maps. The activities of the project include: educational, food security, income generating, productivity, cultural and sport activities that have been achieved with the local authorities, parents and especially, with the participation of the children and youth themselves. In relation to the strategy for raising awareness and communication for the prevention of recruitments, during this quarter advances have been made in the dissemination of the radio commercial, through alternative means of communication, such as community radios in alliance with the radio program *Manos Amigas de las Naciones Unidas* (United Nations Friendly Hands).

Finally the report presents the consolidation of the work achieved with the demobilized from ethnic minorities and afro descendents children in the Departments of Cauca and Chocó, by supporting in projects such as agricultural, cultural and educational programs. In particular, children have been demobilized with the assistance of the *Defensoría del Pueblo* and the representative of the indigenous communities. This quarter's advances were made in the construction of a judicial framework for the indigenous children, based on the special indigenous jurisdiction, of their traditions, laws and customs.

ACCUMULATED RESULTS OF THE QUARTER APRIL - JUNE 2004			
Description	Accumulated Beneficiaries	Quarterly Beneficiaries	Results
Jobs created	963	-	During this quarter, no jobs were created but the emphasis was given to the 10 projects approved in the last quarter. In the previous quarters more jobs were created than needed.
Vocational training	971	233	154 scholarships were granted for the development of skills training in woodwork, furniture, tailoring, home services, shoemaking, and food preparation, and 79 on vocational training in car mechanics, electricity, systems and beauty.
Access to Education	1.034	320	During the quarter, support was provided for access to formal education by funding 39 scholarships that were approved between January and March. During the April-June quarter, access to education was facilitated to 320 youths placed in Official Educational Institutions. The total accumulated educational assistance provided to youth reaches 1.034.
Access to Health	1.690	161	The number of children who have access to health benefits through Profamilia program is: Medical Visits: 553 Includes Profamilia visits); Dental visits: 4; Lab Workups: 737; Specialist Visits: 38
Reintegrated families	240	45	During this quarter, 45 family reunifications were achieved.
Minorities (prevention)	197	9	Demobilized children from indigenous ethnic minorities and Afro Colombians descents from Cauca and Chocó
Beneficiaries at risk of recruitment	10.892	450	7 Departments: Antioquia, Cauca, Cundinamarca, Chocó, Huila, Putumayo and Santander. 450 belonging to ethnic minorities.
Ex-combatant Children	1887	170	Of the total children assisted, 1.690 have benefited from the ICBF Program. 197 come from indigenous ethnic minorities and Afro Colombians making a total of 1,887. This quarter 161 children entered the ICBF Program and 9 are from ethnic minority projects.

II. CONTEXT

CHILD SOLDIERS DEMOBILIZED FROM THE ARMED CONFLICT

The following are some of the main facts and news updates related to the assistance and prevention of demobilized ex-combatant children from the armed conflict. It is important to highlight the initiative of the National Government to reform Decree 128 of 2003, which establishes on the one hand, the condition of the demobilized children from the armed conflict as victims, and on the other hand, the legal mandate for the Colombian Welfare Institute (ICBF) to assistance minors through a specialized program.

The proposed reform could affect the rights and protection of the children in two different aspects: 1) it withdraws the economic benefits given to persons who demobilize from an illegally Armed Group, which could discourage the release of children from such groups; 2) it reduces the period of humanitarian assistance, establishing it at 2 years, which affects the younger children entering the program.

Additionally, work is being done on the elaboration of statement that children must sign at the moment they turn themselves in for protection to the governmental civil authorities; in the signing, they must explicitly state their condition as victims, the commitment not to return back and break bonds with the GAI to which once they belonged. This has been a concern of the USAID from the US department of justice to make sure that demobilized children entering the program are victims of GAI and committed to reintegrate in dignifying life. The statement is incorporated and approved by ICBF and *Defensoría del Pueblo*.

Another legislative alternative in progress is the project to reform the Children's Code, which will be established when the new legislature begins on July 20th of the present year. One of the components introduced in the new articles proposed, is the definition of children's condition as victims, to help prevent them from being prosecuted.

Likewise, *Plan Decenal para la Infancia Colombiana*, an initiative led by ICBF was started: *Plan País*, which has among its strategic lines, the component of assistance to the vulnerable population and victims of the armed conflict: displaced and demobilized children from illegally armed groups. The following phase is the diffusion and incorporation to the development plans of territorial entities (Governor's offices and *Alcaldía*).

In consideration of the armed conflict, the National Institute of Legal Medicine quotes in a report: "data given by the National Army stating that during the past two years 4,077 minors have died violently. This means, 44 children have lost their lives in confrontations with the Police/Military Force during the first quarter of 2004." This information somehow coincides with the ICBF's growing concern that according to data from their regional offices. An increased recruitment of children by the GAI has been observed*. It has been equally found that the armed conflict destroys youth's desire to live in indigenous communities. The emotional crisis and the number of suicides among youth of indigenous communities in the Department of Chocó reflect this situation.

Finally, the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace has shown its interest to include the subject of child recruitment and demobilization in their current negotiations in progress between the National Government and the *Autodefensas* groups.

* The source of information ICBF regional offices.

III. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION, SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

A) ASSISTANCE TO EX-COMBATANT CHILDREN

One of the achievements of the Program accumulated is strengthening of the coverage and capacity put in place to assist ex-combatant children from the armed groups. In this quarter, a new regional entity was added to the opening of a one CAE in Cartagena, Department of Bolívar, and two more were opened in the departments of Antioquia and Valle del Cauca. Also, the new Modality of Assistance in a social-familiar environment was formed as a complement to the institutional environment, named Half-way Homes developing in Armenia. This last experience has permitted more flexibility to child assistance. On the other hand, progress has been made in the integral support given by the ICBF's regional and area centers to the NGOs operating in the legal, administrative, and technical areas, as well as in the supervision and coordination.

With all the development and level of success of the program 2 CAEs closed due to a weak management of the institutions operating them. In addition, there were problems on a technical administrative level of operators for these centers, which then have had to hand-over programs and centers to the ICBF. Each institutional closing represents a loss in social capital and experience in assistance to demobilized children.

Relevant to this matter, the technical team of ICBF and IOM are working in two aspects. First, building the institutional capacity of the operating NGOs in programmatic and Political, Administrative-Financial and Managerial components through the project developed with *Evaluar Consultores*. Second, evaluating the selection procedures: hiring, introduction, and training of the professional teams of the operational NGOs and ICBF's regional offices, prior to the children's arrival at the new Centers. An example in this quarter was the cases in the regions of Cartagena and Armenia, where it was implemented the institutional and social-family model, children's profiles, and technical-administrative procedures for moments of crisis.

During this quarter progress was made in the procedures, standards, guidelines, indicators and alerts of the Program's information, evaluation, monitoring and control system. The tools for psychosocial assistance were complemented, as well as SPA's tools for management of drug consumption and prevention, and the process of strengthening the technical, managerial, administrative and financial components of the institutions for the sustainable development of the organizations and Program management.

Also, the Reference and Opportunities Centers (CRO) were formalized. These centers assist children who complete the institutional Program and require support for a successful social, educational, working, and community re-integration. The CRO in the city of Cali was inaugurated, to work with children in the region of Valle del Cauca, and contacts are being made to start a CRO in the city of Medellín in the next quarter. It is important to note that the COR in Medellín is operating under the SIDA, Canadian funds which also supports the cost of the regional office in Medellín. Some of the achievements made in the CRO of Bogotá are the creation of the institutional Network for educational and labor services, and the definition of procedures to accelerate the approval for youth's subsidies.

Regarding the family unification line, the average of children re-united with their families maintains constant at 14%, which shows the social-economic and safety difficulties the families face. Most of them are victims of political violence and the phenomenon of forced displacement; this limits the conditions to receive and guarantee their children's rights upon returning home. However, Family Reunions are supported in the Program as a strategy to find alternatives for children's reintegration with their families, to establish the contact bonds between them, and to make the process of social reintegration possible for the children.

Another variable to point out in this period is the introduction to the Program of new sources of International Cooperation and other Entities of the State that take shared responsibility of the children, in coordination among different entities led by the ICBF. The international organizations working with child soldiers are European Union, UNICEF with Switzerland funds, Canada and International Organization for Labor. This has generated a double impact on the Program: on one hand, the new counterparts incidence represents contribution strengthens the program as a whole. This is the case

of the financing re-integration and financing prevention projects, and the design of a web page on the Information system of demobilized children and youth by UNICEF and GTZ. In the national context, the Ministry of Education and the inter-sector workshops of the National System of the Social Welfare (in Spanish SNBF), led by the ICBF, participates to coordinate the offer of state services. However, on the other hand, the sense of competition of the new counterpart agencies puts the ICBF in an immediately responsive position towards the demand they make, thus overlooking mid-term and long-term strategies; for instance, the topic of contingency, and the strategy for constructing a unifying focus of the programs for the operators and a good level of coordination has yet to be accomplished.

ASSISTANCE DATA AND DESCRIPTION OF THE ICBF PROGRAM

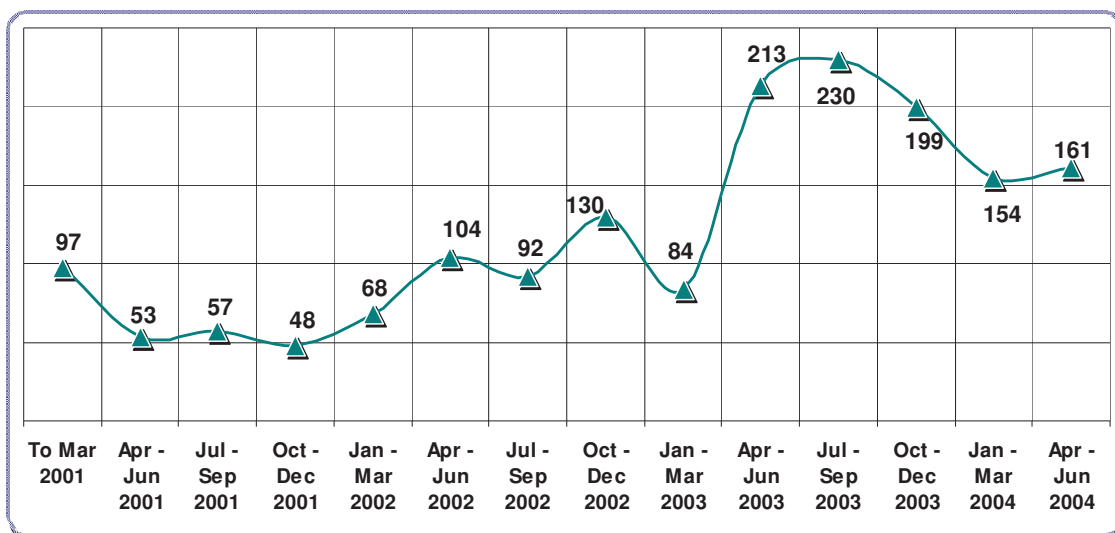
Table #1: Beneficiaries Cumulative

BENEFICIARIES REPORT		
Description	Beneficiaries Cumulative	Beneficiaries Quarter Report
Assistance Program for Ex-combatant Children from March 21, 2001 through June 30, 2004	1,690	161
Ethnic Minorities June 30, 2004	197	9
Total Ex-combatant Children	1,887	170
Prevention	10,892	450
Total USAID / IOM Program	12,779	

Between March 21st 2001 and June 30th 2004, 12,779 children demobilized or at risk of being taken to the armed conflict have benefited from the different projects of the ex-Combatant Children Assistance Program.

Table #1 shows the number of direct beneficiaries; 1,887 of those were demobilized children from GAI who entered the ICBF specialized centers or returned to their communities. In the first cases, the USAID/OIM Program has supported integral assistance, protection, and social re-integration of 1,690 demobilized children. In the second case, the Program has supported the traditional authorities, families and 197 ex-combatant children that belong to ethnic and Afro-Colombian minorities, thus ensuring a successful and safe return for the children. Finally, 10,892 children in seven Departments of the country have been assisted through projects to prevent their involvement in the armed conflict.

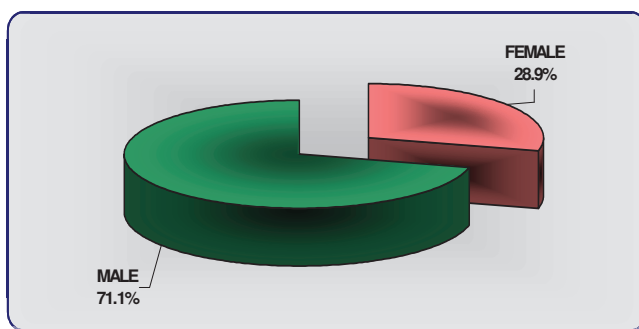
Graph #1: Demobilized Children that Entered the Program by quarter



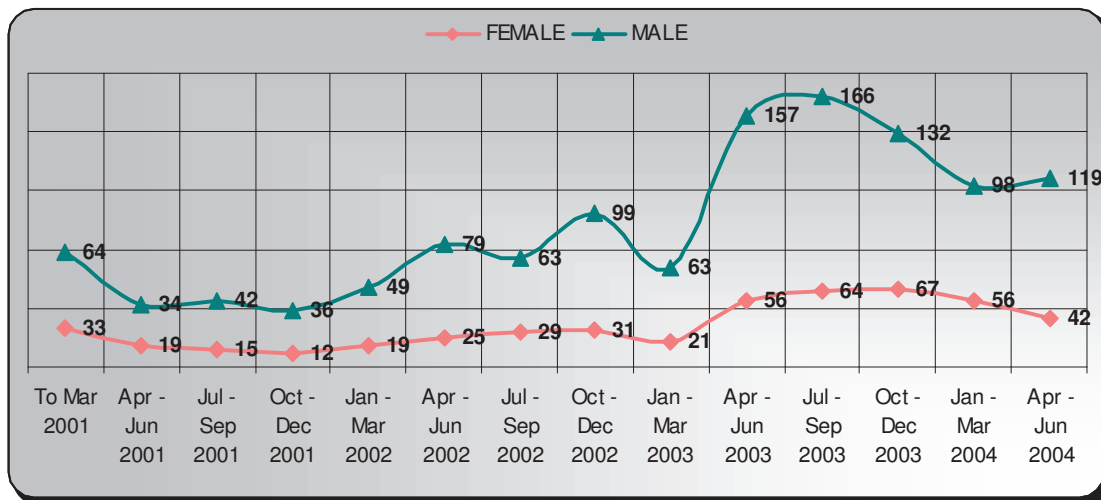
Graph #1 shows the number of children who have entered the ICBF's specialized centers. It highlights the fact that the number of demobilized children from GAI has increased during the last quarter. After six months of constant decrease, the curve went up again, with an increase of 4,5% with respect to the previous quarter. In comparison to last year's April-June quarter, there has been a 24.4% drop in the number of demobilized children; however, comparing the annual tendency, this keeps growing: 297 minors demobilized in the first semester of 2003, compared to 315 in the same period of 2004.

Graph #2: Cumulative Distribution by Gender

Graph # 2 shows that out of the 1,690 ex-combatant children that have been assisted in the Program, 489 (28.9%) are girls, and 1.201 (71.1%) are boys. There have been very few differences between previous quarters where girls represented 29.2%, and boys 70.8%.

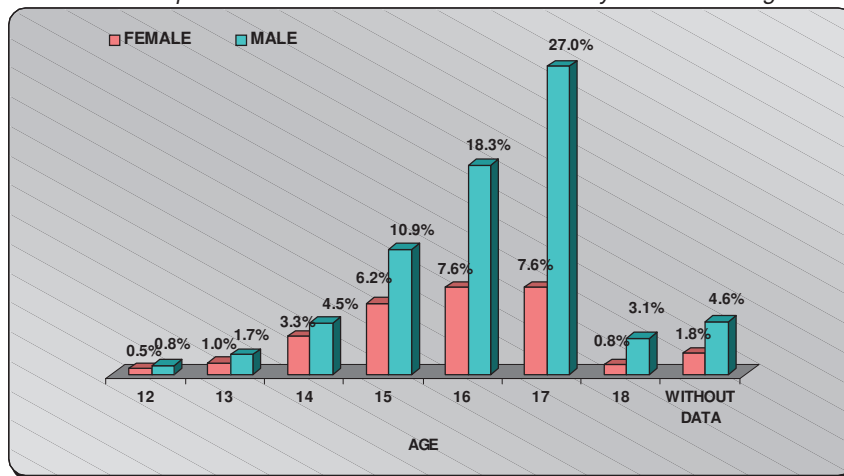


Graph #3: Quarterly Distribution by Gender



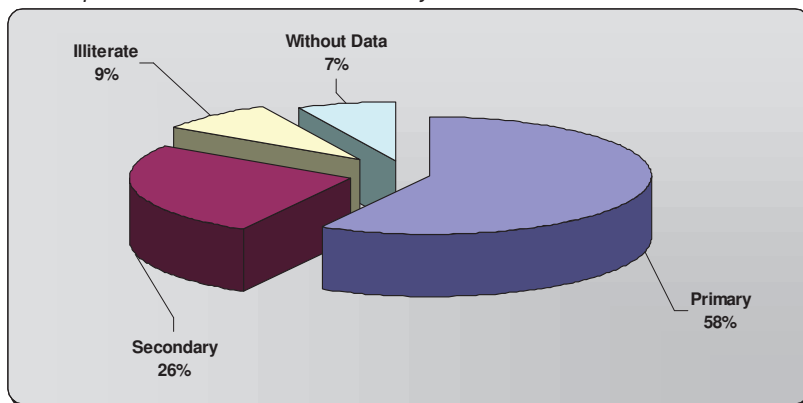
Graph #3 shows the number of children that entered the ICBF centers by quarters. It is interesting to note that fluctuations in the boys have been greater compared to those of the girls. On the other hand, the growing tendency of demobilized girls, represent 36.4% of the total demobilized minors in the previous quarter. There had been a significant decrease during the present quarter, dropping to 26.1%, closer to the lowest incorporation of girls in the October-December quarter of 2002, which was 23.8%. It is important to note that for the first time, the demobilization tendency fails to have a similar behavior. In the previous quarters, the incorporation of both gender were the same going up or down, but in the last quarter, there was an increased of 21.4% incorporation of boys to the centers, whereas the incorporation of girls went down by 25%.

Graph #4: With the Cumulative Distribution by Gender and Age



In Graph #4 shows the age ranges of the 1.690 children assisted in the ICBF centers. The data maintain the tendency of the previous quarters, with a decreasing behavior from age 17, which is the most numerous group (586 children) as the age goes down. 77.8% of the demobilized children are in the range of 15 to 17 age groups. The conducted case studies show that the average period of time children staying in illegally armed groups is 24 months. Based on such information, we can conclude that children between the ages of 13.6 and 16 are at a higher risk of being recruited.

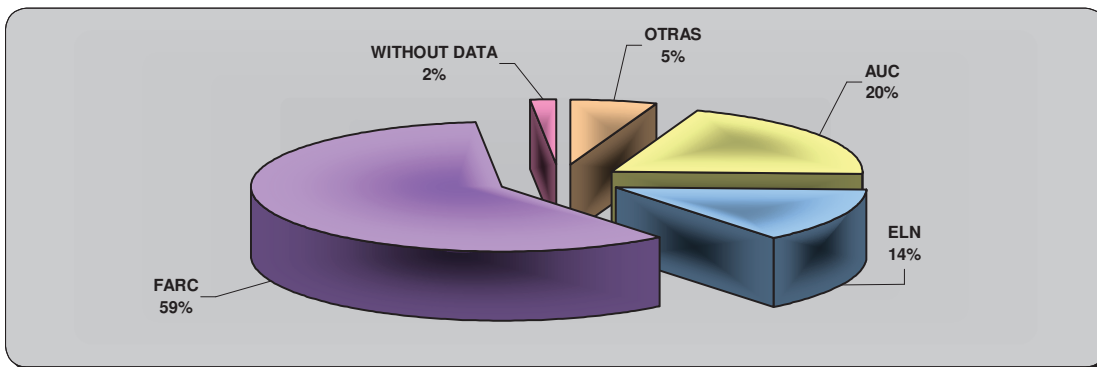
Graph #5: With the Demobilization by Accumulated Educational Level



Regarding the children's educational level at the moment of entering the Program, 982 (58%) have had some Elementary School education, 442 (26%) some High-School education, and 146 (9%) have had no formal education.

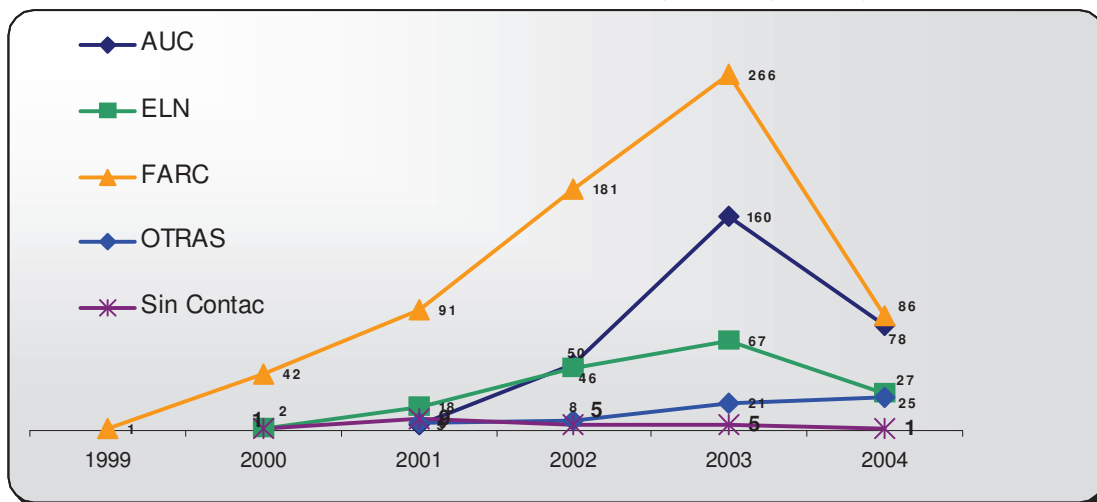
The situation gets worse for children who have had low schooling, given that they leave the education system to enter the GAI, they forget what they have learned, reaching a condition called functional illiteracy. In the initial interviews, it is found that most children do not value education and resist reentering the education system. The national statistics indicate that girls have a little higher level of education than boys: 3.2% of the girls are illiterate, compared to 10.8% of the boys. Also, 37% of the girls have been through some level of High School, comparing to 21.7% of the boys.

Graph #6: Distribution by armed groups accumulative



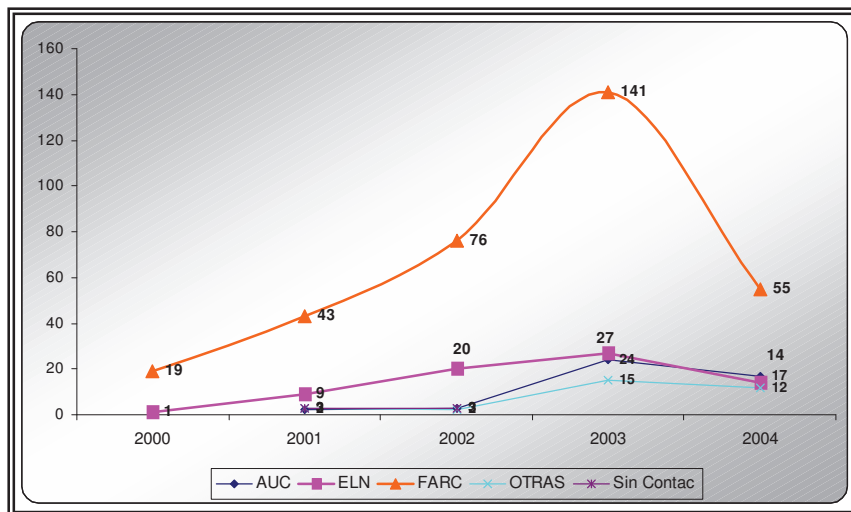
Graph #6 shows that the great majority of demobilized children are from the FARC (1,001), the number of child soldiers demobilized from the paramilitary AUC is increasing (339), as they went up from 18.6% in the former quarter, to a 20% in the present. Demobilized children soldiers from other groups have not changed.

Graph # 7: Distribution by Armed Group: **Boys** entering the program



In Graph # 7 shows the number of boys entering to the program per year from different GAI to which they belonged. During 1999 and 2000, the great majority of boys were demobilized from the FARC, but in the following two and a half years, this number has decreased going from 70.5% in 2001 to 39.6% by June 2004. In contrary, it was only until 2001 that the boys from the Paramilitary entered the Program, and in the following three and a half years they went from representing 3.8% to 35.9% of the boys entering the Program in 2004. Likewise, there has been an increase of boys demobilized from other armed groups, from being 4.6% in 2001; they now represent 11.5% at the end of the first semester of 2004. In the case of the boys demobilized from the ELN, there has been no significant variation. They have maintained around 12%, with a maximum peak in 2002, when they represented 15.8% of demobilized boys.

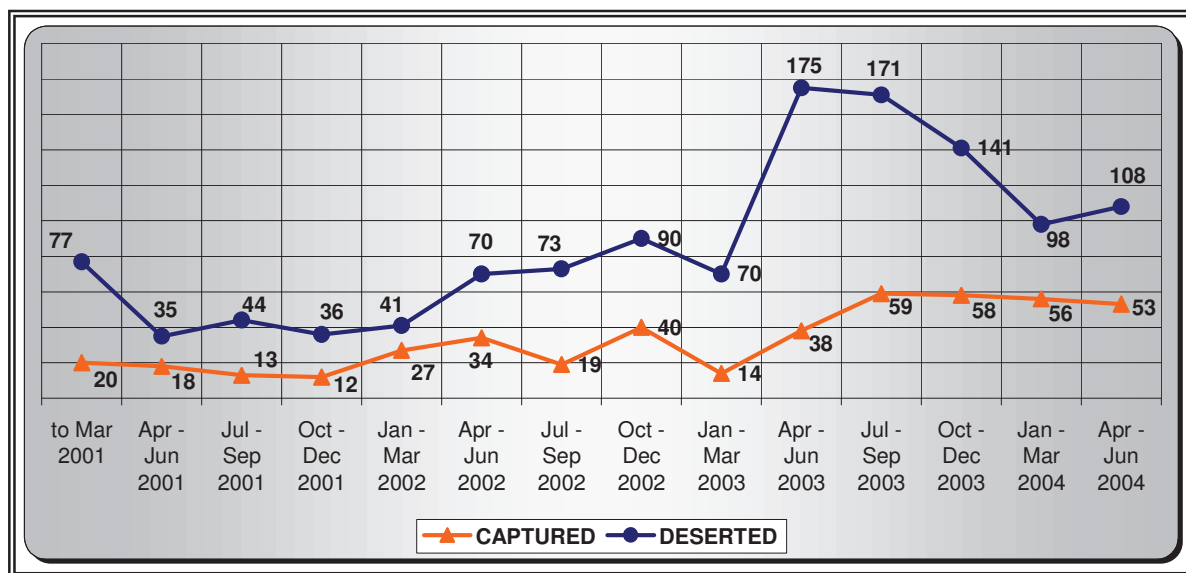
Graph #8: Distribution per Armed Group: Girls



Graph #8 shows Demobilized girls per year and per armed group, with a similar behavior to that observed in boys in the previous graph; however, girls demobilized from the FARC continue to represent more than 50% of the total girls entering the program during all programming years.

However, girls' participation has gone down from 95% in the year 2000, to being 56.1% in 2004. It is interesting to see the patterns in the case of girls demobilized from the AUC, a group that was considered to recruit only boys. In the year 2001, girls were demobilized for the first time (3.3% of the total), which came to be 17.3% by the end of the first quarter of 2004, the case of girls demobilized from the ELN, their percentage has decreased in the last years. They were 19.2% in 2002, and they represent 14.2% in 2004. Finally, during the last year, the percentage of girls demobilized from minority armed groups has increased, reaching 11.5% of all demobilized girls in 2004.

Graph #9: Type of Desegregation: Captured Vs. Deserted per Quarter



One of the characteristics of the Program is that the number of children voluntarily demobilized has always been higher compared to the captured ones. In Graph # 9 shows the quarterly flow per type of demobilization. For the "captured" children, (a concept which is proposed by *Defensoría del Pueblo* for recovering those that are not infringing minors), during last year has decreased minimal from 59 to 53.

A year later, during April to June 2003, the greatest number of voluntarily demobilization occurred (83.3%). This quarter the figures of volunteer demobilized children have gone up again by 10.2% with respect to the previous quarter.

Table #2: % of Children remaining in the Program at the end of the Quarter per Center (HAT, CAE, CJ, HT)

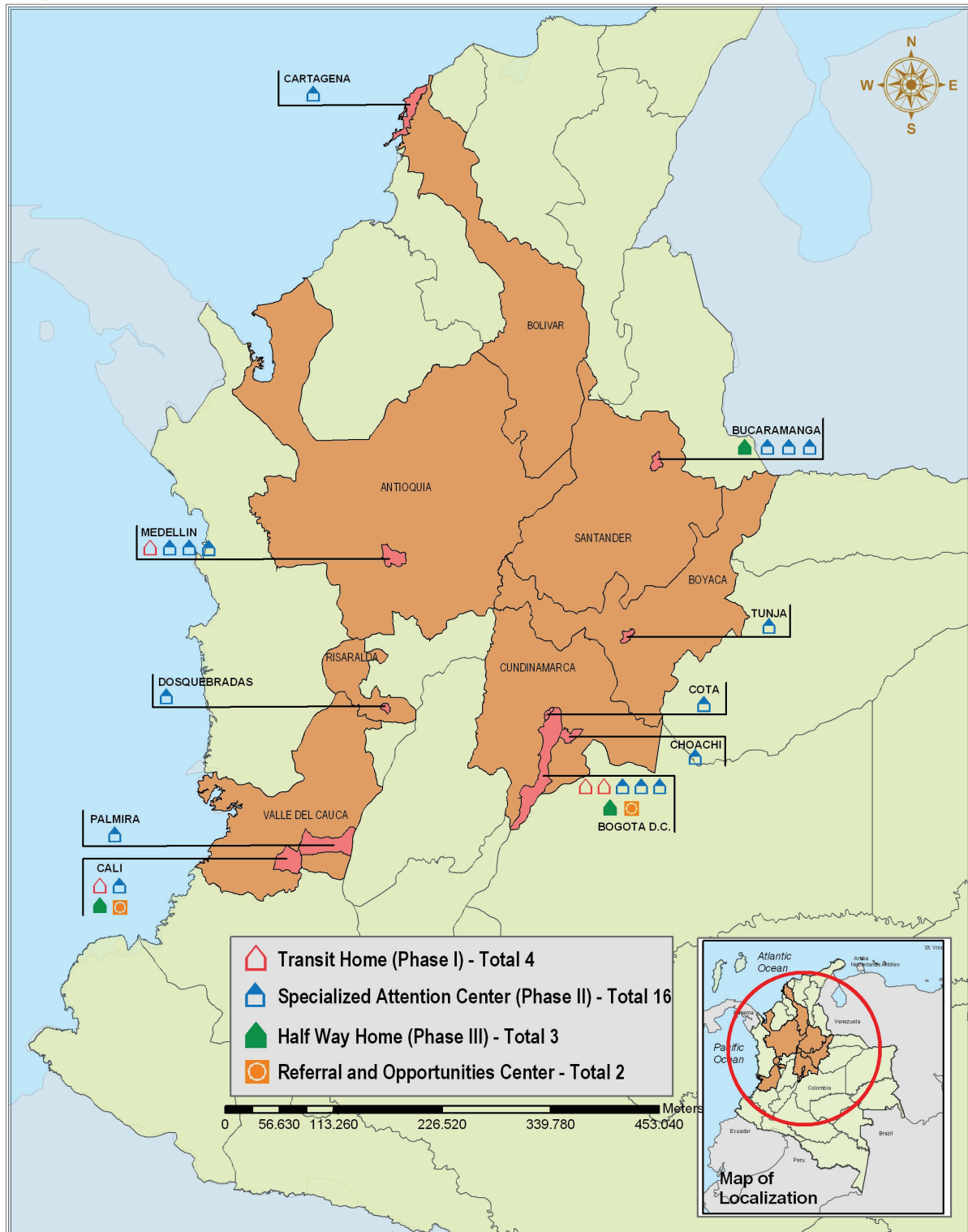
Quarter	Jun 30		March 31	
Description	Q	%	Q	%
Children assisted through Jun 2004	637	37.6	570	37.3
Children in the ICBF Protection Network through Jun 2004	88	5.2	58	3.8
Children reintegrated with their Families	240	14.2	195	12.7
Children Leaving before Program completion	374	22.1	433	28.3
Children in the Interior Ministry Reintegration Program	269	15.9	203	13.3
Children Leaving the Program when Reaching Adult Age	82	4.9	70	4.6
Total Assisted	1.690	100	1.529	100

By June 30th 2004, from the total number of children demobilized from the armed conflict, 637 were in the ICBF centers (HAT, CAE, CJ); that is to say, 37.6%, as shown in Table #2. The rest of the children (5.2%) are in the ICBF protection network centers receiving treatment for problems such as substance abuse, 14.2% have been reunited with their families (presented 12.7% in the former quarter). Other youngsters moved on to the Reintegration Program or simply left the ICBF Program as they reached the age limit (15.9% and 4.9% respectively), a significant number in the case of children entering the Reintegration Program, which increased by 2,6% in relation to the previous quarter.

One of the significant advances in this quarter is the decrease in the number of children leaving the ICBF Program before completing the process; there was a decrease from 28.3% to 22.1% of the total assisted demobilized minors. Analyzing the cause that explains this situation, it has been found that many children return and request specialized assistance again after abandon the program. When reviewing histories of returns to the Program, there were cases found of children coming back to the Program twice and three times. It is important to clarify that the information system designed for ICBF does not record these data twice; it is recorded only once, so as not to count the same child over again. Likewise, a great effort has been made with the regional ICBF operators to increase the capacity of child retention, for the purpose of giving them a chance to be better prepared and complete their educational and legal processes.



Centers's Geographical Localization



1. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING:

OBJECTIVE # 1: Strengthen the institutional capacity in terms of reaching consensus on implementation criteria for health, artistic-recreation, political-ethical and therapeutic projects in order to provide services to youngsters demobilized from the armed groups. This is done from a psychosocial perspective to improve the quality of the services and the social reintegration process.	
RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1.1 Designed and implemented of a psychosocial model for the services provided to youngsters demobilized from the armed conflict.	<p>1.1 During the quarter, advances were made in consultation held for developing 5 Psychosocial Assistance modules, conducted by <i>Corporación Vínculos</i>, were:</p> <p><u>Elaboration of work tools for the modules:</u></p> <p>Module 1: “Particular aspects of a psychosocial process with demobilized youngsters” Tool: Recognition and exploration of needs and potential Psychosocial needs of the youngsters may have. “The Kaleidoscope”.</p> <p>Module 2: “Identity from the relationships with oneself “ Tools: Name ritual, Emotional world exploration, Externalization.</p> <p>Modulo 3: “Identity from the relationship with others and process of encountering in civil life”. Tools: Social integration – Redefining Memory and Culture, My social relationships –Honeycombs and Hives, Rescuing experiences from past relationships, I am more, Labels, Family.</p> <p>Module 4: “Identity and Democracy – Pacts of Inclusion – “ Tools: Caught Right and Caught Backwards. Ethic guidelines for co-existence. Recovering a Voice.</p> <p>Module 5: “Painting Support” Control Guides, Reflexive Guides for Support – emotional exhaustion. Tools: Reflection Groups for case studies, support and collaboration relationships, and rituals.</p> <p><u>Review of the 5 modules implemented in different workshops with:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The technical team supporting the process (ICBF-OIM) 2. A group of experts in the matters of childhood, psychosocial assistance, systemic therapy, and social construction, youth and Infant policies. 3. ICBF officials and operators. <p>Beginning the new quarter, the feedback conducted in this phase will be adjusted, and will move on to design and print the modules, later on design the training phase with the facilitators’ technical teams.</p>

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
<p>2. The psychosocial assistance model was fully implemented in the Centers in the health, culture, arts recreation, political-ethical¹ and therapeutic areas</p>	<p>2.1 Health</p> <p>2.1.1. <i>Profamilia</i> and Health System</p> <p>Assistance through <i>Profamilia</i> is being provided with brigades in health assistance in general, and sexual and reproductive education workshops. During this quarter, <i>Profamilia</i> stopped giving support on Family Planning. On the other hand, health assistance on the part of the National System has reached greater coverage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 24 Sexual and Reproductive Education Workshops were held at 10 Program Houses (CAEs and HAT) and in Pío XII School in Itsmina - Chocó and in the shelters in Cajibío and Caloto in Cauca. A total of 449 youth participated in these workshops. – The methodology of Sexual education workshops was changed, and had a favorable evaluation by the children, as they demonstrated that they could express their doubts on this subject with ease; they are willing to participate actively and spontaneously by sharing their own experiences and approaching matters such as Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS, promotion of healthy habits and improvement in the couple relationships. – 1,284 consultations were made during the first quarter, 553 (43%) of those took place in <i>Profamilia</i>. 756 clinical laboratory tests were made and 246 diagnostic exams (X-Ray, Colposcopias, sonogram, etc.). There were 256 visits to medical specialists during the quarter, 100 Emergency room visits and 645 dental appointments.² – The creation of a sexual education booklet for children started with <i>Profamilia</i>, which is now in design phase. – During the quarter, a closer and direct relationship between ICBF and <i>Profamilia</i> was supported to establish procedures for rendering services and determine communication channels and coordinating actions. <p>2.1.2. First Aid Training with the National Red Cross:</p> <p>During this quarter, the training process for the technical teams and the youth of the program of the houses was concluded, covering first aid, Primary health assistance, tropical disease assistance, and immediate responses to natural disasters topics.</p> <p>This process included 6 cities of the Country (Bucaramanga, Bogotá, Medellín, Cali, Pereira and Tunja), 14 Centers and 210 people attended, each at the end of the workshop received the appropriate certification and material (6 Primary Assistance booklets, First-aid Mini books, Diarrheic and Respiratory Disease Treatment Manuals) by the Red Cross</p> <p>Project evaluation shows a 91% success regarding the training, emphasis on the practical aspects of the process, the updated topics to be applied in homes, and the need to broaden some topics such as CPR³, injuries, and others.</p>

¹ Non-violent communications and exercising relationships that build peace, etc.

² Note that the data on doctor and dentist, laboratory, and specialist visits may include several visits for one child.

³ Resucitación Cardio-pulmonar (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation)

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
<p>2. The psychosocial assistance model was fully implemented in the Centers in the health, culture, arts recreation political-ethical⁴ and therapeutic areas</p>	<p>2.1.3. Video-Conference Presentation:</p> <p>A National videoconference took place with the participation of ICBF Regional and the Centers Officials from Bogotá, Medellín, Cali, Bucaramanga, Tunja, Armenia and program operators, for the presentation of the final results of the Health Research conducted by the <i>Observatory of Universidad Nacional</i> and the final results of Psycho-active Substances consultancies. At present, the program is coordinating with the IDP Program in a publication of health results, with the participation of the Ministry of Social Protection.</p> <p>2.2 Culture and Sports:</p> <p>In relation to this component, the following activities are under way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Development of the Cultural Project in Cali with <i>Casas Juveniles</i>. Work is in progress with the neighborhood community where the homes are located. The youngsters of the Program are leading the process and they have completed the workshops on dance, wind instrument, music, percussion, strings and vocal technique. New “Capoeira” workshops (dance and martial arts technique developed in Brazil), ceramics, and silkscreen, are to be held at the same houses in the events room, thus generating active participation of the youngsters and adults in the project. These activities raise awareness in the community and the reintegration of the children in the close context. – The youths who took the <i>Certificate program</i> to be sports and recreation training facilitators, concluded successfully their apprenticeship work at the <i>Instituto Distrital de Recreación y Deporte</i> (District Institute for Recreation and Sports) in Chía. Furthermore, they have applied the knowledge they acquired in a Mini Soccer championship, in which all the youth in the program from the houses of Bogotá participated. It should be noted that this activity was proposed and carried out by the youngsters themselves, achieving authority, respect, and leadership with 100 children who cheerfully participated in the championship. <p>The vision of the youngsters is focused towards two purposes: continue their sports training process, get better sustainable jobs with the compensation houses or recreational parks that allow the inclusion of the youngsters in their work teams, as a means to gain even more personal and professional experience.</p> <p>2.3. Raising Awareness and Diffusion:</p> <p>During this quarter, RCN's Production team finished the edition of a song's video-clip: “<i>Un Canto Nuestro</i>” (A song of Ours). At present, the ICBF and <i>Defensoría del Pueblo</i> are defining whether the song should be release and diffuse as a strategy to raise public awareness on issues of reconciliation and sheltering of demobilized children in Colombia.</p>

⁴ Non-violent communications and exercising relationships that build peace, etc.

OBJECTIVE # 2: Implement a monitoring and evaluation system for the follow-up of the services provided to the youngsters during different stages of the program.

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
<p>1. A unified monitoring and evaluation system implemented in all the centers that enables follow-up of the situation of each one of the youngsters in the program</p>	<p>1.1. During this quarter, the Consulting on “Design for the Implementation of the Information, Monitoring and Evaluation System” was concluded to establish indicators in the areas of Rights and Program Phases, and an alarms system that will register the situation of the youngsters for the decision-making process and their transfer and exit from the phases. The report contains the following:</p> <p>Chapter 1: Conceptual Framework and introduction of the Information, Monitoring and Evaluation System of the Program for Specialized Assistance to Demobilized Children in Colombia.</p> <p>Chapter 2: Module I. Records of the Operator Institutions.</p> <p>Chapter 3: Module II. “Records of the Standard and regulation for assistance to children of the Program”. Conceptual Base Module.</p> <p>Chapter 4: Module III. “Record of Assistance given to the children”</p> <p>Chapter 5: Conclusions and Observations. (Annex: Final Consulting Report)</p> <p>1.2. At present, UME (IOM’s Monitoring and Evaluation Unit) is elaborating the information system through specialized Software to be handed over to the ICBF in the month of October for its implementation in different level entities (local, regional, national and direct operators with children).</p>

OBJECTIVE # 3: Increase coverage in each of the program's stages (Transit Homes, specialized attention centers, Half Way Homes)

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
<p>1. Increased the number of institutions (7) and the enrollments to (196) providing care to youths</p>	<p>1.1 During this quarter, the contract with the operator <i>Punto de Luz</i> was completed, having children under its care since the year 2001. Difficulties were centered on administrative and financial problems the entity was unable to improve. The entity had to give up the HAT Luna and the CAE Arco Iris projects on June 1st, which were located in Bogotá. The children were transferred to other institutions with the support of the Program, thus achieving to resolve the contingency, and respect the educational and work-training processes of each child was respected in Bogotá.</p> <p>1.2 At the end of the quarter, the ICBF Program had a quota of 667 youths in 4 HAT, 16 CAE - 3 of which were opened in this period: 1 in Cali, 1 in Cartagena, and 1 in Medellín; 3 Children Homes, and an 88 enrollments in the ICBF Protection Institutions Network to help children that require special assistance.</p> <p>1.3 This quarter, the pilot test in the modality of Half-way Homes in Armenia, advanced with the selection and hiring of 2 operators (Universidad del Quindío and San Juan Bosco), to assist 40 children. The USAID/IOM Program provided the equipment and provisions for the children. In the first month, operators facilitated family selection and training to receive the children.</p> <p>1.4 As for the modality of Conditioned Subsidy, during this quarter the <i>Presencia Colombo Suiza</i> Corporation was selected to assist 15 children demobilized from the paramilitary group (AUC) <i>Cacique Nutibara</i>. The position of this operator involves educational assistance, skills training through workshops; work with <i>Familia</i> through the Childhood and Family Program of Medellín Alcaldía, and substance abuse assistance in agreement with the CIAF of Universidad San Buenaventura. The project includes three phases: Approach, Exploration and Permanence in the programmed activities. It includes granting a subsidy to the family so it contributes in the improvement of the children's nutrition and provision, even when they are in their family environment.</p>

OBJECTIVE # 4: Continue the technical and administrative strengthening in the entities that are currently providing the services

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
<p>1. Services to the youngsters by strengthened the technical administrative level of the operator institutions.</p>	<p>1.1 With respect to the technical-administrative strengthening of the operating institutions of the Program on the part of <i>EVALUAR Consultores</i>, 5 sessions of feedback and adjustment of institutional diagnosis and improvement plans for each institution were held. Items such as the plan of Training and <i>Certificate Program</i> for the operators to obtain tools in organizational administration and management were defined. The training will be facilitated by <i>Universidad Minuto de Dios</i> and will concentrate on 4 aspects of organizational management:</p> <p><u>On Political Capacity, EVALUAR will work on:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ways to approach conflicts and differences. – Processes and spaces for participation and intervention. – Personnel capacity to intervene and influence the organization. – Joint action to provide reforms. – Local organizational structures. – Capacity to generate strategic alliances. – Strategies for the development of shared projects. – Strengthening the relationships with other entities. <p><u>Managerial Capacity:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review of Aspects of organizational identity. – Control and Evaluation systems. – Human Talent Management. – Organizational Structure. <p><u>Technical Capacity:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Analysis of Implementation vs. planning. – Information systems and lesson learned. – Identification of future programming and institutional projects. – Strategies and Mechanisms to identify the targeting population. – Knowledge on social, economic and cultural conditions of the targeting population. <p><u>Financial Capacity:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identification of funding sources: Actions to diversify funds, Identification of projects to diversify generation of income and surplus, contributions, income for services and activities, and financial investments. – Mechanisms for expenditure control. – Procedures for the elaboration, approval and implementation of budgets. – Economic balance: assets – liabilities relation. – Disclosure of reports. <p>1.2 Another activity developed was initiating advisory sessions for institutions for monitoring case-by-case, aspects that need strengthening in the aforementioned areas.</p> <p>1.3 A progress report was presented to the ICBF to coordinate the activities of Phase II of the project, providing follow-up and monitoring of the institutional strengthening process with the supervisors of the ICBF central zones, once the consulting process is completed.</p>

2. FAMILY REINTEGRATION

OBJECTIVE # 1: Strengthen and promote family reintegration if security conditions permit.	
RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. Psychosocial plans implemented in the work with the families and reintegration strengthening	<p>1.1 In this quarter, 2 Family Reintegration were accomplished, 1 in the city of Bogotá in the Specialized Assistance Center <i>LA Guapa</i>, and in the city of Pereira with the Assistance Center <i>Héroes del Futuro</i>. In these two encounters, 35 children and their families participated, totals to 105 people. The encounters had objective to favor the re-establishment of family bonds, contact of the children with their families again, identify family dynamics and socio-cultural conditions of the families to continue future family reintegration.</p> <p><u>The characteristics of the reunions obtained were:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A greater attendance of mothers (65%) and siblings (55%), and fathers in a lower percentage (35%), grandparents (15%), and uncles/aunts (15%). This reflects that the biggest contact the children have in their homes are with their mothers. – Most of the families came from the Departments of Cundinamarca, Huila, Santander, Meta and Caquetá; 85% from rural areas. Most families state that the safety situation is precarious, put pressure from armed groups to find their children, when the children have deserted the armed groups – which are the majority. Furthermore, they report abductions by the GAI or recruitment of Youngers and lack of safety due to actions inherent to the humanitarian crisis in the areas where territories are being disputed among armed groups (massacres, forceful displacements, threats, harassment, among others). – The above situation presents a negative influence for the return of children to their places of origin, making it possible in only very few cases to reintegrate them with their families. From the 35 children who had encounters, the possibilities of reintegration were only found in 4 children. This leads us to search for other alternatives for social reintegration. – The most common representative family type is that of nuclear families, in which one or both parents have had different conjugal unions and children. In this respect, family encounters have allowed the children to learn about the changes their families endured during their absence. (The predominant time of separation and no communication is 4 to 8 years). – It should be noted that, despite the interest and worry of the families about their children, when they learn that their children are receiving education, housing, nutrition, and training, they delegate the responsibility for protection and assistance of their children to the State and the Program, and consequently the families cannot provide these conditions when the children return home. <p>1.2 In this period, 45 children were reintegrated to their families; 13% more than the former period, when 39 were reintegrated. However, the total number of reintegrated children to their families is maintained at 14% that equates to 240 out of the 1690 children that have received support from the Program from March 2001 through June 2004.</p> <p>According to the data provided by the monitoring of the children reintegrated, it is evident that the life conditions of the majority of the children and their families are precarious: minimal economic income – in the best of cases, monthly income equal to 200.000 Colombian pesos (74.00 USD), without access to health services, with poor spatial conditions, no adequate environmental sanitation, amongst other limitations. Without the support of the program, in very few cases the children continue their studies, training, or get employed in a proper job. In view of this situation, one of the Program actions is the continuity of support to these children through the study and work training.</p>

Table 3 of Family Meetings Carried Out During the Quarter Vs Accumulated, with Support of the Program

REGIONAL	FAMILY REUNIFICATIONS DURING THE QUARTER	FAMILY REUNIFICATIONS AS OF MARCH 2004	FAMILY REUNIFICATIONS AS OF JUNE 2004
Cundinamarca	0	3	3
Santander	0	4	4
Bogotá	1	4	5
Antioquia	0	2	2
Valle	0	2	2
Risaralda	1	1	2
Tunja	0	1	1
Bolivar	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	17	19

The Table shows the number reunifications of family supported by the program during the quarter and the cumulative since March 2001 to March 2004 and up to June 2004. Reunification of families allows families members to visit the centers where the children are housed. During the period a cumulative of 19 family reunifications were obtained, in which 365 youths were reunited with their families by the psychosocial methodology work.

Table 4 Children reunited with their families by Assistance Phase, quarterly and accumulated

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	CHILDREN REINTEGRATED (Quarterly)	CHILDREN REINTEGRATED (March 2001-March 2004)	TOTAL CHILDREN REINTEGRATED
Transit Homes (HT)	6	16	22
Specialized Attention Centres	32	123	155
Half Way Home	3	19	22
Protection	3	37	40
Tutor Home	1	0	1
TOTAL	45	195	240

In the table one can observe 45 youngsters reunited with their families, for an accumulated 240 cases, under the framework of the assistance program March 2001 to June 2004.

3. CONTINGENCY PLAN

OBJECTIVE # 1: Support an appropriate government response in the case of massive demobilizations.	
RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. An Inter-institutional strategy designed in case of a massive demobilization of youngsters.	<p>During the quarter the following activities were conducted:</p> <p>1.1 Institutional workshop to address the Contingency with the participation of Human Rights Ombudsman Office, <i>Procuraduría</i>, Social Protection Ministry, UNICEF, Units of the National Chapter of ICBF , USAID and IOM, in which the following was concluded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Address the institutions for the Contingency plan. – Train varied regional public official entities in preparation for a massive demobilization. – Integrate the Protocol document formerly elaborated by the ICBF – IOM, adding the legal component. – Prepare the schedule for the training process according to regions for dialogue <p>1.2 The Assistance Protocol for massive reintegration of demobilized children with institutional support. This document establishes parameters, actions and procedures to follow the Contingency Plan that will develop when group demobilization of children from illegally armed groups occurs. It takes into account three steps: processing, registering, and assistance. It involves the different public and private national entities as well as the International Cooperation committed to the process.</p> <p>The document is in its final editorial stage. Once it is approved by the institutions which elaborated (<i>Defensoría</i>, USAID, IOM, ICBF, UNICEF) it will be made public among the participants of the workshop and the training chronogram will be established.</p>

4. DISSEMINATION OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

OBJECTIVE # 1: Dissemination among local, regional and national authorities and among civil society organizations of the legal status of ex-combatant child soldiers to guarantee a due judicial and/or administrative process.	
RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. Officials, (family judges, family advocates and other civil servants) trained on the regulations that are applicable to ex combatant child soldiers' judicial and administrative processes.	<p>1.1 The project undertaken by the Human Rights Ombudsperson Office of "Raising Awareness and Training within the Legal Process, should be applied to demobilized children and youths and the Consolidation and Inter-institutional Observance of the verification and application of human rights to children and youth in risk situations due to the internal armed conflict", attained 14 work teams to consolidated the Observance with the participation of institutions such as Municipal authorities, Mayors Offices, Police, ICBF, <i>Defensoría</i>, Judges of Minors, NGOs, Secretary of State, <i>Personerías</i> among others. Up to date 255 people have been trained in 8 cities.</p> <p>1.2 The results obtained by the teams in relation to child soldiers are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – It became clear that family violence and the lack of educational and work opportunities are frequent causes in the recruitment of children into illegally armed groups. – The connection is not only limited to child and youth combatants in armed groups, but also to military participants, collaborators and informers. Therefore, the Observance work teams have emphasized that local regions should direct actions to stop any form of participation in illegal armed groups. – All the GAI continue to hold child recruitment campaigns, announcing economic benefits. In order to address this, proposals were established to inform children and youth about the reality of life in armed groups. – Lastly, the way in which Police and Army treat demobilized minors in terms of interrogations was discussed. In this respect, the directive of banning interviews with demobilized children and youths was established.

Table #5 Legal Framework Training of Public Officials per City

City	No. Teams	Officers
Cali	3	32
Villavicencio	2	33
Popayán	1	32
Medellín	3	60
Villeta	1	13
Zipaquirá	1	39
Ibagué	1	27
Bogotá	2	19
TOTAL		255

Table # 5 is breakdown of the institutions that have been trained to raise awareness on the legal process that is applied to the demobilized children. The training was conducted with the *Defensoría del Pueblo* to the institutions that are considered as observer to verify and apply the their rights and those at high risk of recruitments. In 8 cities 255 officials have been trained to act as observers.

OBJECTIVE # 2: Contribute to the process of obtaining identification documents for the youths and to expedite their legal processes.	
RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. The youths have identification cards and their legal processes flow in a quick and timely manner.	<p>In reference to youths legal processes, the following has been achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Two Legal Process Workshops were conducted with youths in the Luna and Arco Iris houses. 45 youths were trained in these workshops. – 143 youths were certified by the Operative Committee for the Surrender of Arms (<i>Comité Operativo para la Dejación de Armas</i> -CODA) when they demobilize. – 42 Judiciary processes were closed, meaning these youths are now at the ICBF's protection process. – 39 youngsters obtained legal documentation such as Civil Registration and / or I.D. cards. – The average of undocumented minors is 36.81% of the total assisted in the centers. The follow up statistics carried out in the program show a constant increase of undocumented youths during the last three months, 228 in April (of 653 located) and 246 in June (of 644 located). This increase is largely due to the situation of the youths of the halfway house in Cali, where 90% of them are undocumented and Valle is the least efficient region in providing civil registration, a situation being solved by the National Branch through directives and initiatives to the Supporters of this city. – 42 youths entered the Reintegration Program during this quarter.

Table #6 Legal Situation of Youths to June 2004

TOTAL YOUTH ASSISTED April-June 2004	QUARTER DOCUMENTED	YOUTHS WITH OPEN JUDICIAL PROCESS	YOUTHS WITH CLOSED JUDICIAL PROCESS	YOUTH IN OPEN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS	CERTIFIED CODA April-June 2004
789	499	482	232	618	143

The table shows the legal situation of the youngsters assisted by the Program during the quarter. 61% have judicial processes open (482) and 29.4% (232) have their judicial process closed. In order to complete the total 100%, 75 (9.5%) have not entered jurisdiction, either because they are new to the Program or because the measure of protection has changed to another modality (violation of law). 78% of the assisted youths during the quarter have ICBF administration protection processes open, meaning that they have an ICBF family defender to legally represent them. The remaining 22% (42) are cases of youths remitted to the Reintegration Program of the Interior Ministry during the quarter. 129 youths (16.7%) cannot yet depend on a competent administrative authority, meaning that they reached the Program by remission of a court sentence but have still put themselves at the disposal of the Family Defense. With the follow up system of a lawyer hired by the Program, these cases have been detected and with the ICBF the proceedings to correct this situation are underway.

Regarding documentation, 499 (63.1%) now hold identification documents, the percentage slightly decreased in reference to the previous quarter. One of the difficulties faced is the delay of some Family Defenders of Regional Zones in the processing of the civil registration. This is presently being discussed in the ICBF in order to find a solution.

During the quarter 143 CODA certifications were obtained, which correspond to 15.1% of the total cumulative certifications. This figure is lower in relation to the previous quarter, but it basically responds to the fact that this procedure depends on the Ministry of Interior and the internal procedures that sometimes can speed up or slow down.

B) SOCIAL INSERTION

1. REFERRAL AND OPPORTUNITY CENTERS

OBJECTIVE # 1: Design and implement a strategy to create Regional Referral and Support Centers to support the youngsters demobilized from the armed conflict.	
RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. Designed strategy for the creation of Referral and Opportunity Centers.	<p>1.1 CRO (Referral and Opportunity Center) Bogotá: During this quarter the contract was renewed with <i>Benposta</i>, the operative entity of the Referral and Opportunity Center “<i>Tejiendo Vida</i>” located in Bogotá. A new procedure to quicken the approval of educational and vocational scholarships was incorporated, and it will be directly undertaken by a Committee Project of the CRO. Support for 22 youths in the educational area by means of the subsidy of studies which guarantee access of education in State schools with flexibilities. The subsidies included a stipend for transportation, school materials, and educational expenses. Based on socio-labor strategies of insertion developed in the previous quarter, the CRO focused its actions on identifying entities which offer formative services and business apprenticeships. By the end of the quarter achievements included having contacted and counseled 110 youths of whom 35 have been given technical training in areas of manufacture, stationary, automobile mechanics, and commercial management.</p> <p>1.2 CRO (Referral and Opportunity Center) Cali: In Cali, the actions of the CRO were focussed on locating youngsters who had finished programs at the ICBF and are in the region of the Cauca Valley. In addition, a census of State and private entities was developed for the elaboration of an institutional network of services for youths. This activity was realized through communities and services in the areas of physical health, therapy support, education, training, job formation, recreation and community work. By June 2004, 22 youths had been located and to whom the Program was introduced. Counseling and support to gain access into the institutional network was initiated, according to the need and services the youngsters require for their process of social insertion. An integral file was opened for each youth, with the objective of identifying his/her psycho-social condition, educational and occupational skills acquired, interests and projections for the future in order to work with each individual in the most assertive manner relevant to his/her particular interests and needs. As a general characteristic of the group, the majority are between 18 and 19 years old. A boy of 14 has been contacted. Most are with their families following the reintegration process, but most of these youngsters and their families live in precarious economic situations. Consequently, actions undertaken by the CRO for this group have been of great support in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreements with Health entities have meant that 8 youngsters were able to gain access into the social security system. - In the educational arena, 6 subsidies for study from the Scholarship Fund of the Program were negotiated. - 8 youths were supported with training and labor formation. - 4 youths are presently working. - 9 youths have had the required military documents (<i>libreta militar</i>) expedited. - 6 youths are participating in community and cultural activities.

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. Designed strategy for the creation of Referral and Opportunity Centers.	<p>1.3 CRO (Referral and Opportunity Center) Medellín:</p> <p>During the quarter the following activities were carried out in order to create a CRO in Medellín which was funded through Canada (CIDA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development and Approval of the Terms of Reference for the CRO, according to the guidelines established by the centers in Bogotá and Cali. - Summoning of 10 qualified entities with public and private sector experience. Said entities are: Don Bosco, Ayuda Humanitaria (Human Aid), Comfama, Comfenalco, FENALCO <i>solidario</i> (Comfenalco Solidarity), Chamber of Commerce of Medellín, <i>Actuar Famiempresas</i>, <i>Escuela Sindical de Medellín</i>, Small Businesses of Antioquia. <p>Sensitizing work and management with entities and businessmen in order to set up the network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of income generating projects such as jewelry making, developed by the <i>Fundación Almuerzo Navideño (The Christmas Lunch Foundation)</i>.

2. EDUCATION

During the second quarter of this year, the Program has progressed in consolidating assistance from Official Educational Institutions, involving the Municipal Secretary of Education and the Ministry of Education, in order to ensure the restitution of youths' Right to Education. This new Educational Attention Strategy has brought about a few difficulties, mainly children's opportunity to access the educational system and the educational institutions due to a lack of experience.

At the children's level, new academic requirements were introduced during this quarter. Scholarly discipline, development of learning and social abilities, demonstration and improvement of skills, stronger motivation and the possibility of progressing in forming a life project with the help of Education.

As for the Education institutions offering educational services to the demobilized youths, they have accepted the challenge implied in the formal education, testing institutional ability to adapt educational proposals to the profiles of these youths.

The ability of operators to accompany the academic process of these youths, keeping them motivated and helping them create discipline and study habits has been tested. Finally, in reference to governmental institutions, (ICBF – MEN – Municipal Secretaries of Education), their management skills have been tested and their ability to respond effectively to the requirements imposed by the restitution the Right to Education of demobilized children. Significant progress has been made, but there is still a deficient coverage.

OBJECTIVE # 1: Guide and support the improvement of the education offered to young people in each operating institution of the Program.

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. Operating institutions advised on the design and implementation of pedagogical models for working with child ex-combatants.	1.1 Following the National Workshop conducted jointly with the Ministry of Education, all the Operator Centers initiated procedures to ensure the youths education in official educational institutions. The protocols produced by the Ministry were handed out to 6 operators and all 10 Official Educational Institutions presently assisting youths throughout the country. The instructions consisted in how to follow procedures to obtain enrollment quotas and registration for youths of the Program. The delivery of protocols to the remaining 16 operators was provided during regional visits performed by MEN and IOM.

OBJECTIVE # 2: Improve the quality of the education component by conducting a continuous evaluation of lessons learned.

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. Systematic assessment of lessons learned carried out in the education component in each center.	1.1 The centers count on following up and evaluation of the academic progress of the youths in official educational institutions that serve to systematize the lessons learned and to plan pedagogical support activities, and tutorials for school youngsters.
2. Personnel implementing the educational component is evaluated.	<p>2.1 MEN has designated a public officer as a focal point to attend Municipal queries related to the educational services offered for youths enrolled in the Program. During the quarter 6 technical Inter-institutional assistance and monitoring visits were performed.</p> <p>2.2 MEN – ICBF – IOM will implement a pedagogical performance evaluation for the Centers and for the teachers of the Official Institutional Educational Centers to be carried out based on the academic results of the youths, progress and difficulties presented during the first stage (first academic semester of 2004) of association with the formal education system, which will be realized with the support of the Municipal Secretaries of Education and the Local Centers of the ICBF with technical assistance provided by MEN.</p> <p>2.3 With the aperture of new assistance centers in Cartagena (CAE) and Armenia (Tutor Homes), agreements were made with MEN and the corresponding Municipal Secretaries of Education for the inclusion of children into the public Education System.</p>

OBJECTIVE # 4: Guarantee that Youth Entering the Program Can Exercise Their Right to Education	
RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. 100% of the youth in the program are studying in an appropriate program within the educational system	<p>1.1. During the quarter children were registered in official educational institutions reaching a coverage of 74% during the period. The remaining 26% had no schooling: 49 drop out (in Medellín, Bogotá and Cali) and 63 youths were unable to study because of late registration according to the Secretaries of Education of Bogotá and Cundinamarca.</p> <p>1.2. During this quarter no new scholarships were awarded, the 39 scholarships assigned during the previous quarter were sustained throughout the academic quarter, January – July 2004. The cumulative total remains the same, 714 scholarships awarded between March 2002 and March 2004</p> <p>1.3. With the objective of ensuring good quality services, improvements were made and school furnishings, audiovisual equipment and information technology were provided in two educational institutions. In Cali, <i>San Roque</i> and the <i>Normal Superior Los Farallones</i>, where 56 demobilized youths are assisted and in an additional school program. 41 children of stratum 1 and 2, at risk of being recruited benefit from the program.</p> <p>1.4. Finalized and handed over 9 Pedagogic Salones to the CAEs, in which a total of 275 demobilized youth benefited.</p>
2. Inter-institutional coordination promoted by the Program to improve opportunities for ex-combatants child soldiers to exercise their right to education and to guarantee program sustainability.	<p>2.1. During the quarter 5 coordinator meetings IOM-ICBF were organized with the purpose of making progress on the development and consolidation of the assistance strategy for children of the Program from the official standpoint.</p> <p>2.2. 6 local meetings were also realized to coordinate the Municipal Secretaries of Education, ICBF regional offices, Institutional Educational Coordinators, operators and IOM.</p>

3. INCOME GENERATION

The priority actions of income generation component during the last three months have aimed at strengthening the necessary steps in order to set up and carry out productive projects linked to the private sector. Guaranteeing that the human resources selected for the operation be qualified is specified by the companies, and to improve the scholarships and aids for both vocational and job formation courses.

In the same manner, a particular emphasis has been made on verifying how much knowledge youths have in regards to opportunities that the Program offers within the framework of the strategy of productive reintegration and employability and the registration of his/her progress toward the income generation which the strategy is supporting.

A total of 971 scholarships, 282 in the area of labor creation, 358 on the job skills, and 331 in the formation of qualified labor, within the framework of productive Reintegration and Employability.

OBJECTIVE # 1: Improve the knowledge and understanding of profile of the youngsters who enter the program and concretize their development expectations.	
RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. Youngsters who join the program have received pre-employment and productive orientation.	1.1 The demobilized children were registered and given orientation on income generation as contemplated in the Program of Productive Reinsertion and Employability was designed. 213 youths assisted in Bogotá. During the next quarter it will be applied to all youths in the Program.
2. Income generation strategy disseminated among the youngsters who participate in the program.	2.1 All 213 youths who were given orientation in Bogotá and the information was on how the program of productive insertion and employment, this survey interview served as a technical instrument in the preparatory stage of the4 program to the children, then the contents of the strategy was presented to the youths for better understanding of the program. It will be applied to all youths in the Program during the next quarter.

OBJECTIVE # 2: Educate the youngsters of the program on labor skills that will allow them to have access to sources of income by means of employment. This will be part of their basic education aimed at developing on the job psycho-technical and learning skills.	
RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. 350 youngsters trained on the processes to prepare for learning and pre-employment orientation.	1.1. 358 participants of the 15 workshops of experiential learning were followed up and measured through the verifying survey perceived in the impact regarding the pre-employment workshop.
2. 240 youngsters provided with training on vocational education ⁵ and job searching ⁶ .	2.1. During the quarter 79 scholarships were awarded in order to help youths adjust to the labor market through vocational training. Up to the present, the cumulative total scholarships awarded are 282 in this component, in specific activities such as electrical, systems, sports, aesthetics and beauty. This is equivalent to 117.5% of the foreseen goal.

⁵ These are aptitudes searching and basic competency workshops on specific areas such as shoemaking, jewelry, wooden furniture, events and festival planning and agricultural-industry activities.

⁶ It is carried out based on a labor-searching model aimed at business visits and previous knowledge of labor skills and employment in real scenarios.

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
3. 170 youngsters provided with training on basic labor skills (On-Job-Training).	<p>3.1 During the quarter 154 scholarships for the formation of youths in specific labor qualifications (on-job-training) were approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The cumulative of the Program is 331 scholarships awarded for on-job-training, such as furniture, manufacture, shoemaking, food industry, services and stationary, among others. - The total cumulative for this concept is equivalent to 34.1% of the total scholarships approved throughout the Program within the framework of employability and corresponds to 194.7% of the proposed goal.
4. 100 youngsters employed	<p>As a result of the productive projects and the training agreements with high employability in specific sectors, the Program has generated a total of 963 work opportunities for youths, which are undertaken as they finish the formation processes in labor qualification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A total of 466 youths have been employed in the prevention projects supported in Cauca and Chocó. - A total of 52 jobs have been created in small family businesses - Projects linked to the private sector such as stationary and festival planning have employed 57 youths. - 11 jobs were obtained with public businesses such as sports monitoring - To summarize, the youths of the Program and their family members have had access to 586 jobs, of a total labor opportunities generated by the application of the strategy of employability Program. - High priorities to evaluate and verify duration of these jobs.

OBJECTIVE # 3: Provide orientation to the youngsters aimed at developing an entrepreneurial spirit and to exploring feasible productive initiatives.

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. 70 youngsters who have a basic business profile provided with orientation on project design and implementation .	<p>1.1 Having applied the verification instrument to measure individual progress in generating income, a database of business ideas proposed by the youths was identified. It consists of business ideas they can carry out themselves or with the help of their families.</p> <p>1.2 The identification exercise was approved in Bogotá and will extend to all youths in the Program for the workshops to be conducted during the next quarter. A database of initiatives implemented with youths, using <i>famiempresa</i> (family business) models will be developed.</p> <p>1.3 Until present initiatives have been generated with 56 youths, equivalent to 82% of the final goal.</p>

OBJECTIVE # 4: Identify investment opportunities for the creation of businesses or for an improved usage of installed capacity as a means to generate stable employment for the youngsters benefited by the program.

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. Identified designed (30) and implemented (20) productive projects with the private sector.	<p>1.1 By the end of the quarter a total of 14 initiative investment projects, related to the private sector have been identified. Equivalent to 46.6% of the final goal.</p> <p>1.2 During the next quarter the portfolio of productive project opportunities will be completed (at least 40), based on the results of the investigation in progress in 5 productive sectors.</p> <p>1.3 7 of the identified projects are being set up and in number of initiatives, represent 35% of the projected goal.</p>

OBJECTIVE # 5: Institutionalize the development of the program by building public and private social capital.

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. Institutional and business support networks ⁷ established in order to strengthen joint development of productive activities and projects.	<p>1.1. Within the task of constructing social capital progress has been made in the identification and raising awareness of new entrepreneurial groups which could potentially support the Program. In the case of Antioquia, with the Rotary Club and in Cauca of Valley with the bakers' guild, with whom two meetings were held with the participation of their board of directors and 65 entrepreneurs.</p> <p>1.2. 5 workshops were organized within the research framework regarding formation of human resource needs and opportunities for investment, with the participation of 45 entrepreneurs in Cali, Bucaramanga, Bogotá and Medellín in order to identify and improve investment opportunities.</p> <p>1.3. Regarding the research to set up an Observatory of Entrepreneurial Perception, the phase of basic survey and the design to collect data and information via the Internet has finished. During the next quarter the official results will be released.</p>

C) PROYECTS WITH ETHNIC MINORITIES

The intervention strategy with ethnic minorities has been implemented through the dissemination of human rights, the international human rights watch, children's rights and ethnic legislation, as well as cultural, productive and educational projects. Additionally the methodology of risks, vulnerability and opportunities map as a strategic element was applied, which permitted giving priority to the children and youths in the definition of the actions and making the intervention participatory.

The projects in progress in the departments of the Chocó and Cauca, have had the community's participation as their fundamental base, that is to say having a direct dialogue with their members or representative. From this exercise 3,958 children and youths and their families have benefited

⁷ Institutional Support networks are GOC and civil society institutions that can become strategic partners for the development of income generation projects.

through 28 projects in the areas of income generation, education, culture, sports and training, in the use of free time.

The productive projects will be implemented with community participatory modules and are not limited by the individual perspective, what abounds in the process of improving the self-sustainability of the projects in their own territorial and cultural areas, assuring the ownership and protection of their environment. The other action alignments are in areas of culture, recreation, sport, and the use of free time, and to promote the participation, decision-making, youth leadership qualities, the recognition and the methodologies for peaceful conflict resolutions. This helps to take the youths into consideration by their communities and to become positive influences and provide input, rather than becoming conflictive elements. At the same time the communities have mobilized around the interests of the younger individuals in order to protect them, give them their cultural values, that become positive factors of retaining them in the community and establish limits for the actors in the armed conflict, so as to discourage their influence on the members of the community.

The projects have guidelines to the actions that cannot be standardized since they are adapted to suit each ethnic groups level of organization, consolidation, cultural identity, beliefs and traditions to make each project a customized process. Therefore maintaining a direct dialogue and recognizing the diversity of ethnicities, the different jurisdictions, and ways and customs is necessary to support their autonomous development processes.

In order to contribute to the survival of the indigenous communities, their cultures and to protect their children from the armed conflict, an Inter-institutional agreement with the Human Rights Ombudsman Office and the Latin-American Association of Indigenous Human Rights, with the participation of the most important regional indigenous organizations to support the project "Promotion, Prevention and Training of Indigenous Communities in Human Rights, International Human Rights Collective Rights and Indigenous Legal framework" was convened. This intends to empower the indigenous authorities in the defense of collective Rights of the communities, through awareness raising strategies and formation of authorities, leaders and indigenous promoters. A national workshops was conducted with 121 participants and 2 regional workshops of formation for Indigenous promoters in Medellín with 35 participants and in Villavicencio with 50 participants.

OBJECTIVE # 1: To consolidate the reintegration and prevention model for youth from ethnic minorities in the departments of Choco and Cauca.

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
<p>1. 160 young native people and Afro-Colombians from the department of Choco involved in cultural, educational and food security projects that prevent their recruitment into irregular armed groups.</p>	<p>To date 3.026 beneficiaries, of which 2.440 youths assisted in training projects in education, income generation. The projects involve the population at risk and demobilized from the GAI (45 indigenous and 7 Afro Colombians) in this Quarter the following actions have been implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Follow up and monitoring of the sustainability of the production of sugar cane and poultry raising project with youths from the indigenous community Embera de Sabaleta (45 Beneficiaries). 1.2 Education workshops in sexual and reproductive health that benefited 20 Afro Colombian youths from the of the Agronomy School San Pío X de Istmina. 1.3 Approval, review of proposals to implement 2 projects with the application of the methodology of Risk Maps. Two proposals deal with educational guidelines that strengthen the education projects in schools, a third in artistic formation and the use of free time and lastly, a project in Fish Production. 1.4 Continue institutional strengthening of the Human rights Ombudsman Office, through the approval of the dissemination project of the HR, IHR, and ethnic legislation in 9 Municipalities. 1.5 . Population characterization and identification of risk factors for an assistance project for youths in 6 neighborhoods on the Southern localities of Quibdó. <p>Evaluation of the projects in the Choco: achievements were identified in the appropriation of the contents in the training area and the individual, family and community strengthening, secured through the food assurance projects. In light of the weakness encountered, a greater emphasis is required in the assistance to family groups through training workshops in the areas of family violence, and access to the institutional network that offer health, education and recreation services.</p>

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
<p>2. 120 boys and girls demobilized from the irregular armed groups in the department of Cauca who are members of indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities are beneficiaries of income-generation projects</p>	<p>A total of 402 beneficiaries, 133 demobilized of the GAI (104 indigenous, 24 Afro Colombians, 5 farmers) have been assisted through training projects, education, artistic, cultural and the generation of income projects. The activities advanced during the Quarter were the following:</p> <p>2.1 Follow up and monitoring of 9 projects in income generation (cattle and agronomy) for their consolidation and sustainability, in the communities Guachené, Cajibío, Río Blanco, Caldonó and Timbío, with 70 indigenous youths participating, 40 afro Colombians and 30 farmers. Of these, 32 are demobilized from the GAI and 108 youths are at risk.</p> <p>2.2 The expanded coverage of beneficiaries in 2 productive projects in organic coffee and plantain growing, in Cajibío, and the planting of vegetables and herbs in Polindara; 39 new beneficiaries entered the programs during the past Quarter, (young indigenous Paeces and Totoroes)</p> <p>2.3 The follow up of 5 projects in income generation (cattle raising and agronomy) of the first phase of the project, through the technical assistance in production and marketing of products and the support and articulation of productive chains. 42 beneficiaries of which 29 are demobilized from the GAI and 13 are at risk of recruitment by the GAI.</p>
<p>3. 250 boys and girls from the indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities of Cauca at risk of being recruited by irregular armed groups are beneficiaries of cultural, educational, and family strengthening projects.</p>	<p>In Cauca 1.116 beneficiaries and (272 indigenous, 139 Afro Colombians, 705 farmers) of which 12 are demobilized from the GAI, and have received opportunities to participate in making decisions, recognition and peaceful conflict resolution</p> <p>3.1 Support to the marketing of the CD and the presentations of the regional musical group Piurek, made up of 7 youths: 2 demobilized youths, 5 at risk of recruitment by the GAI.</p> <p>3.2 Support to 2 educational projects with farmer communities in the municipality of La Vega, and Santander of Quilichao. (259 beneficiaries in risk of recruitment the GAI) through the provision of sports equipment, elements for the theater group, and school support for children. Preventative recruitment activities were conducted with the municipal Secretary of Education and with the family commissary of these municipalities.</p> <p>Through the educational project in the municipality of la Vega, with the Altamira School, teaching resources were given. The project includes expanding the education timetable so that 400 children will be benefited.</p>
<p>4. 150 children who are members of ethnic groups in Putumayo are being served through recruitment prevention projects.</p>	<p>The Risk Map methodology was applied, which covered 96 young indigenous and 56 families. Form this activity a diagnosis was made for the formation of intervention projects. In the present Quarter an integral project of income generation, coexistence and citizen participation in Mocoa will be implemented, with the school Ciudad Mocoa as the operator. (90 youth beneficiaries)</p>

D) PREVENTION

The area of prevention has followed four basic work lines: a communication strategy, a support strategy for the design of a public policy prevention of child from recruitment, a line for participation and mobilization and intervention projects management.

Due to the communication strategy, the matter has been brought to national attention through a mass diffusion of the TV commercial, radio commercial, and printed material. According to previous reports, these messages got through to more than 9,300,000 people. As a continuation to launching the campaign and the emission of these instruments through the most important communication media, the commercial will be aired for free, in those segments pertaining of the National Television Commission.

The following step to attain a mass diffusion of the topic of recruitment prevention through the communication strategy consists in taking it to the regions making use of events and actions on a Departmental level. For this purpose, we have given priority to those departments where intervention actions have already been initiated. The work on risk maps has already been started, and projects have begun where there is governmental political willingness to carry out action plans in the matter of child recruitment prevention.

On related matters, the starting and diffusion of the radio program “*Juntos, pero además revueltos, un programa para estar en onda con los pelaos*” (together, and also mixed, a program to be connected with youth) produced with the radio station *Manos Amigas de Naciones Unidas*, is prospected as a strategy to introduce the subject of recruitment prevention in a pedagogical manner locally, by broadcasting in 686 radio stations in the departments with higher vulnerability to child recruitment. In the same line, compromises are being settled with companies from the private sector which are interested in broadcasting the commercials, such as *Caja de Compensación Familiar CAFAM*, who will transmit the commercial in supermarket lines, schools, and community restaurants.

The design and implementation of public policy in relation to the prevention of minor recruitment, has taken on more relevance in the coordination with the USAID/IOM Program being conducted with entities of the State as well as with international cooperating and organizations. This situation is reflected in the work initiated with ICBF to contemplate an action plan for prevention, as well as the coordination established with PNUD, the National Planning Department and the Restrepo Barco Foundation to conduct projects in the high conflict zones like the region of Montes de María and the Department of Meta. The aforementioned initiatives are in accordance with the interest of the regional entities such as Huila and Meta’s Governor’s Offices to conduct departmental prevention programs.

Plan País – Plan Decenal de Infancia para Colombia – constitutes the action framework derived from the mandate of the United Nations General Council advance in the international commitments oriented towards making the highest child mobilization. One of the components of the plan states that it is precise to design and implement local strategies for prevention, desegregation, and social reintegration of children recruited by the illegally armed groups. The ICBF has defined a work plan with the participation of the USAID/IOM Program in order to position the plan in the departmental environment.

On the other hand, the mobilization and participation strategy has been developed through the design of the map methodology in seven Departments. During the reporting period, adjustments were made on the pamphlets of the printed material as well as in the video, with the perspective of initiating the transference of the methodology by means of a training program for governmental institutions, NGOs and cooperation agencies. This program will be started with an event oriented towards agents who will intervene in the Departments of Cauca, Antioquia, Chocó and the region of Montes de María. With this resource, we are expecting to install capacity in regional and local institutions and reassure that the topic of prevention as an objective to the development of public policy.

As projects being up dated, we have continued the implementation of those derived from the work on risk maps in the Departments of Cundinamarca, Cauca, Chocó, Huila, Antioquia, Santander and Putumayo, achieving greater progress in the first three Departments. These projects are examples of the type of actions institutions can take to intervene in the problem of child recruitment in areas such

as income generation, creative use of time, organization of youth groups and informal education. Actions are being taken to work transversally on a violence prevention and coexistence promotion component. On the other hand, the implementation of the vocational training project is in progress with a group of youngsters in an urban sector of Medellín, which has the perspective making a qualified entrance into the productive sector.

OBJECTIVE #. 1: Introduce proposals to prevent children from engaging in the armed conflict to potential counterparts for discussion, review, allotment of funds and inclusion in regional plans.	
RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. Prevention proposal has been implemented through regional operating plans designed for 13 departments (54 municipalities)	<p>1.1 26 municipalities of 7 Departments have prevention projects.</p> <p>1.2 The prevention project was formulated jointly amongst OIM, PNUD, DNP and the Restrepo Barco Foundation to be started in 16 municipalities of the Montes de María region (departments of Bolívar and Sucre).</p> <p>1.3 There was a joint visit with USAID officials to Villavicencio to prepare a proposition to prevent child incorporation at the armed conflict and the application of risk maps in the Department of Meta and its financial support is being coordinated with PNUD the Department's Governor's Office.</p> <p>1.4 We made advances in the design of a recruitment prevention program with the ICBF. We have jointly elaborated criteria for the selection of municipalities where the application of the risk maps methodology and situational diagnosis by the ICBF, have been proposed.</p>

OBJECTIVE # 2: Identify, in a participatory way, the risk factors that prompt children to join insurgent groups and promote preventive strategies in the selected municipalities.

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. Vulnerability and risk maps were prepared in 54 municipalities in 13 departments.	<p>1.1 Vulnerability, risk, and opportunity maps elaborated in 26 municipalities of seven Departments. The status of projects in each Department is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Projects finished: 4. – Projects in progress: 12. – Projects where formulation is being adjusted: 10 <p>1.2 During the period, the material from the vulnerability, risk and opportunity maps methodology was reviewed and adjusted. The publication of 600 copies in three issues was prepared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “Listening to children”: methodological guide. – “Children’s rights in an armed conflict situation”: legal framework. – “Transforming vulnerabilities and risks into opportunities”: guide for the automation and presentation of data gathered during map elaboration. <p>Work guides and questionnaires, a flier for the families participating in the workshops, and a video will accompany these three themes.</p> <p>1.3 The first training workshop was designed for facilitators conducting the project to take place in the city of Medellín during the next quarter.</p>

OBJECTIVE #. 3: Develop a strategy to prevent child abuse and domestic violence at local level.

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. 800 community leaders and teachers have been trained in reconciliation and conflict management, family counseling, child-bearing patterns and the law on domestic violence	<p>1.1 In coordination with the ICBF and the IDPs, <i>Trata and Paz</i> Programs that the IOM is conducting, between April 28 and 30, the workshop “Identification and Analysis of Experiences of family violence and the promotion of peaceful coexistence within the families” took place. CISALVA was hired for the organization and automation of the seminar results, the workshop’s memoirs has been turned in, which are being reviewed by the ICBF.</p> <p>1.2 The game “Open ways” was selected as a pedagogical instrument to be used in the prevention of child recruitment in the municipalities where the risk maps were elaborated. The authorization is requested to the Administrative Department of Social Welfare of the District -DABS-, entity that created the game, with the support of UNICEF, for its adjustment, reproduction and application on a national level.</p>

OBJECTIVE # 4: Promote Children's access and permanence in the school system and in non-formal education programs in the selected municipalities.

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. 500 Children and young people have been enrolled in the school system in 26 selected municipalities.	<p>1.1 At present, 591 children identified as high risk of child recruitment, are beneficiaries to the projects of incorporation and permanence in school: 65 in Santander de Quilichao and 180 in La Vega (Cauca); 255 in Floridablanca and Girón (Santander); 75 Indigenous children in Biakirudé (Chocó); 16 in the Department of Cundinamarca.</p> <p>1.2 During the quarter, a new project was formulated in the municipality of La Vega, in the Department of Cauca to guarantee the enrollment of 400 children in the educational system, and prevent their return in the armed conflict.</p>
2. 600 Children and teenagers who dropped out of school or are old for their grade level are now enrolled in accelerated learning programs in 26 selected municipalities	2.1 This quarter, working with the National Ministry of Education on the design of an action plan to maintain the children, at risk of being recruited by GAI, at school in the locations identified as high risk. The plan led by MEN includes teacher training, raising awareness among parents, students and teachers on the risks of child recruitment in the conflict, and increase the enrollment and diffusion of school coverage.
3. 150 youngsters are enrolled in vocational training programs	<p>3.1 222 children have benefited by vocational education programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – With the <i>Don Bosco</i> Center in Medellín: 98 children are being trained in graphic arts, woodwork, confection, mechanics, and as welding assistants. Besides the technical training, these youngsters receive psychological, social and work. They are supported during the first three months of the training and they are also assisted after they leave the center to help them reintegrate in the job market. – In Don Bosco's branch in Amagá agricultural techniques training started for 24 youngsters. – 100 youngsters from Aguablanca in Cali received training in work preparation through the use of a systems center of <i>Don Bosco</i> at the <i>Centro de Capacitación</i>.

OBJECTIVE # 5: Arrange to initiate income generation projects with the families of Children and teenagers who are at risk of being recruited by armed groups.

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. Increased income for 150 families whose Children are extremely vulnerable to recruitment.	<p>1.1 The process of management, implementation, and execution of productive projects driven from the risk maps has been continued for 591 children, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Project of vegetable growing for 65 youngsters in the municipality of Totoró, Cauca. – This quarter, the project of egg production and sale was started for 6 youngsters in Cundinamarca. – The project for fish farming and exploitation was reformulated in the municipality of Novita, Chocó for 80 youngsters, with the technical assistance of UMATA. – The agreement for the initiation of the Development and Implementation of agricultural projects for family units was signed for 200 youngsters in the municipality of Iquira - Huila. – The projects Caucasias (development of basic skills, entrepreneurial and coexistence training) and Segovia (fish and poultry cultivation) in Antioquia are being reviewed which will have a coverage of 240 youngsters, 30 teachers, 32 parents and 8 community leaders.

OBJECTIVE #. 6: Help to reinforce public policy for Children by including youth recruitment prevention as an item on the agenda of agencies responsible for national, departmental and municipal planning.

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. The topic of recruitment prevention is part of the Ten- Year Plan for Children, the National Plan to Eradicate Child Labour and the municipal development plans of the priority towns for the Program.	<p>1.1 During this period, work was done with the ICBF to support the diffusion of <i>Plan Decenal para la Infancia: Plan País</i>, project to work for prevention of recruitment of minors. There will be regional workshops and round table discussions on developing policies to work for children during the next 10 years.</p> <p>1.2 Two events were coordinated with the OIT's International Program for the Eradication of Child Employment (IPEC) in order to establish child recruitment as one of the worst forms of child labor: one conducted by OIT in Bogota and the other by IOM in Neiva.</p>

OBJECTIVE #. 7: Design and implement a national awareness and information campaign on the problem of children's recruitment by insurgent groups, preventive strategies, and the responsibility of institutions and citizens in dealing with this problem.

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. Four million Colombians have been Sensitized with the problem of children and the armed conflict, through the mass media and alternative means of conveying information.	<p>1.1 Approximately, 9.368.192 saw the TV commercial on child recruitment prevention and 5.000.000 listened to the radio commercial.</p> <p>1.2 During this period, 20 radio messages were prepared and issued by the radio stations through <i>Caracol</i> channel, on the topic of prevention.</p> <p>1.3 The video master and TV commercial clips were delivered to the ICBF's communications department to be registered in the National TV Commission.</p> <p>1.4 The pilot program with the radio station <i>Manos Amigas del PNUD</i> was concluded. It was validated with four groups of demobilized children and the corresponding adjustments were made. The first program will be distributed to 600 community radio stations identified during the month of August. The program's CD includes commercial on prevention.</p>

OBJECTIVE # 8: Evaluate the progress and results of the prevention strategy.

RESULTS	ACTIVITIES
1. The prevention strategy is being evaluated every six months.	<p>1.1 The systematization and evaluation of the project of Assistance to Ethnic minors was initiated in the municipalities of Quibdó and Istmina. The Human Rights Ombudsman Office handed in a preliminary fieldwork report.</p> <p>1.2 A specific booklet for the systematization of the information of the vulnerability, risk, and opportunity maps was created.</p>



PREVENTION COMPONENT COVERAGE



IV. CONSTRAINS AND ACTION TAKEN

1. ICBF ASSISTANCE MODEL:

- a) In order to guarantee quality assistance to youngsters to carry on a sustainable program, it is as important to work with other government Institutions as is to strengthen and coordinate with the ICBF. Working with governmental institutions that carry responsibility in the assistance such as Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Projection, Human Rights Ombudsman Office, Recreation Institute of, Culture and Sport
- b) Until a Contract Protocol is formed and implemented, it is important to look into: awareness raising, training, and the selection of operators, the risk of operators closing down, the loss of human social capital, and the unavailability of qualified institutions for assistance when required is at risk.
- c) The sudden closing and starting of assistance centers do not permit a process that can guarantee the continuity of the processes for the youths. The planning, support and supervision by the official of the ICBF and the secretaries of education constitute a factor in the success to assure that availability of school space for the children in the program.
- d) The little capacity for adaptation and tolerance, the youths have to accept the intellectual, methodological and social demands of the formal educational system are reflected in a high incidence of no motivation and in some cases school dropouts. The actions taken on by the Ministry of Education in relation to the training of teachers, adjustments in the teaching process and assigning space, improvement in the school enrollment.

2. REINTEGRATION:

- a) Its necessary to strengthen the institutional support network around the houses and the CRO, to guarantee an effective social reintegration for youths and the restitution of their rights.
- b) The process to transfer the strategies and income generation projects and employability designed for the reintegration of youths in the work force has not been conducted because the ICBF has not been able to interface with a governmental entity that has the capacity to assume the income generation component.
- c) The program requires participation of the private sector in areas of information and a commitment and motivation to support the reinsertion process to the economy. This aspect needs strengthening in the strategies and the motivation mechanisms in order for the private sector to participate more effectively.

3. PREVENION:

- a) The initiative to prevent the recruitment of children into the armed conflict has had impediments of its positioning, due to one of the institutions attitudes to the visibility of the donors in the regional events programmed. As an alternative, a strategy has been designed for the diffusion of commercials and posters in alliance with private institutions and the advertising of these projects that are being implemented in the regions.
- b) The results related to the children at risk of recruitment coverage for the educational system, (objective # 4: the area of prevention) requires a political action on the part of the Ministry of Education and the departmental Secretaries of Education.
- c) The ICBF has stated their interest in leading a prevention program, but has requested the waiting period in order to conform an Inter-institutional committee to elaborate a plan of action. In order to make any advances, work is being done on a regional level through projects that have derived from the application of the risk maps.
- d) In relation to intervention in family violence, a program is being developed with the coordination of all the IOM and ICBF programs where the training alignments are set in context of a pilot project

in three municipalities of medium length that does not coincide with the previous goals in the area of prevention. The proposal has been to support the ICBF in this process, but at the same time, work the theme as a cross reference to the projects derived from the mapping

4. ETHNIC MINORITIES

- a) The humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict, makes the indigenous communities require support, not only in their organizations but also in their administrative capacity, and integration and cohesion of their youngsters in order to improve the approval of projects.

V. PLANS FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

1. ICBF ASSISTANCE MODEL

Through out the life of the ex-combatant children model the principal and most important aspect of the program is to build the capacity of the government entities such as ICBF, Defensoría del Pueblo, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Projection, Human Rights Ombudsman Office, Recreation Institute of Culture and Sport among others to be able to run the program effectively. Also the government will be ready to attend massive demobilization. Through the following models will give support for the program:

- a) A Visual Health campaign for all the youngsters in the Assistance centers
- b) Design the launching of the CD and video clip "Un Canto Nuestro" in Bogotá.
- c) Workshop for diffusing the Modules for Instruments for Psychosocial Assistance
- d) Evaluate adapting the system and methodologies to the youngsters' profiles.
- e) Promote and support the formation of round table discussion for systematizing, follow ups, and formulating qualitative improvement plans of the educational service offered to youngsters.
- f) Conduct workshops in the macro regions to prepare technical teams to assist the possible massive demobilizations.

2. REINTEGRATION:

Another aspect of program is to make sure that the children going through the program are reintegrated in the society. Some developments have been achieved through creation of CRO, training on on-job-training and vocational training in order to help smooth transition from institution to the society. The following are the continuation of models to support the reintegration of the youths in the society so that they do not turn back into the GAI.

- a) National workshop with the CRO to share experiences, unify criteria and coordinate strategies.
- b) Finish the implementation of the total number of youngsters in the program, the registration card for legal and the Survey for Verification of Progress.
- c) Entrepreneurial Workshops based on viability exercises of business ideas proposed by youngsters.
- d) Consolidate the Investment Opportunities Portfolio, parting from the results of the investigation being advanced regarding this, with the National Association de CDP'S.
- e) Officially present the first results of the del Observatory of Entrepreneurial Perception.

3. PREVENTION

In the prevention component for child soldier recruitment into the armed conflict, it is important to continue with activities of program. Using the risk map methodology that has been developed to cover more regions to prevent recruitment. Awareness raising and communication for the prevention of recruitments is one aspect that will continue expanding. The following are activities foreseen to give continuation:

- a) Publication of the material of the "Vulnerability, Risks and Opportunities Maps"

- b) Transference of Methodologies workshops in the Vulnerability, Risks and Opportunities Maps” in Antioquia.
- c) Distribution of the first radio program for the prevention of recruitment and the edition of the second.
- d) Coordinate the prevention actions to be conducted with the Ministry of Education, directed and school aged children in risk of recruitment.

4. ETHNIC MINORITIES

This component of the program developed with initiation of Defensoría del Pueblo early this year. The program has had success and the objective of the program is to expand and cover more ethnic minority population. The main focus of the next months will be to work in Cauca, Chocó and Putumayo through the following activities.

- a) Expand the intervention in the department of Putumayo, with methodological strategies that incorporate the results derived by the systematization and evaluation of the assistance project ethnic minorities.
- b) Implementation of the prevention project in the municipality of Quibdo, for youngsters at high risk of recruitment into the conflict.